

Amateur Radio is a valuable national resource of communicators that have proven time after time, their value to local, state, and federal agencies during emergencies.

The space shuttle disaster earlier this year and the ensuing search for debris in which hundreds of amateur radio operators assisted is but one example. I myself was at a Saturday morning meeting at the North Carolina Emergency Operations Center (NCEOC) in Raleigh, when we learned (via amateur radio) that the shuttle had broken up on re-entry.

On a daily basis, I use amateur radio to communicate with fellow amateur radio operators while traveling to and from work and sometimes to render aid to disabled motorists. I also participate daily in the ARRL National Traffic System on an almost daily basis. While much of the traffic we pass is routine, we have passed traffic from US Military personnel to their families. The daily participation in traffic nets on VHF and HF frequencies insures that our skills and equipment stand ready to function during a real emergency.

As an Electrical Engineer of some 20+ years, and having been involved professionally in Part 15 testing of telecom equipment, I have grave concerns of what BPL will do to the HF spectrum in homes and neighborhoods. I also have grave concerns of what amateur radio operations from otherwise legally operated amateur stations will do from a RF immunity standpoint to BPL. The two services, I believe simply cannot co-exist.

While from a business standpoint the idea of BPL appears to have captured much attention in the marketplace and it certainly has caught the attention of many legislators, lawyers, and marketing people, as an engineer it is technically flawed and will I believe render much of the HF bands unusable in residential areas that deploy the service.

I serve the NC Section of the ARRL Field Organization as a Technical Specialist. One of the things a Technical Specialist does is to provide consultation to amateurs, citizens, and businesses that are either receiving or causing interference to and from amateur radio services.

Generally I deal with many more issues with interference TO amateur radio operations than from it. Part 15 devices (unintentional radiators) are probably at the top of the list. CATV leakage is another issue that plagues many residential areas. Fortunately those types of interference tend to occur on discrete well defined frequencies. BPL will be wide band, strong, and will render much of the HF spectrum unusable.

The FCC is aware the role that amateur radio has played in getting communications where it is today. Many of this industry's greatest inventors and scientists were also amateur radio operators. Many of the FCC personnel are amateur radio operators. Even Walter Cronkite is a amateur operator, and I urge the commissioners if they have not seen it to, get a copy of the video that Mr. Cronkite did for the ARRL. It really sums up what we do very well.

Don't let this technically flawed attempt to provide yet one more way to get internet connections into our homes destroy a service that has existed for almost 100 years. This country needs amateur radio operators in times of emergency and the amateur radio community needs the FCC to do what's right and what they have promised to do... Protect our Amateur Radio Spectrum.

Thank you,

Frank A. Lynch W4FAL
2528 Oakes Plantation Drive
Raleigh, NC 27610-9328
w4fal@arrl.net